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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: J. A. Mwaniki (Kenya)

Chapter ____. DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

F. Human settlements statistics

1. The Commission considered item 9 (f) of its agenda at its 446th meeting, on 11 February 1991. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the general development and integration of methodological work, including experience and progress made in international classifications (E/CN.3/1991/24, sect. II.E).

2. The Commission noted the work undertaken by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the further development of housing and human settlements statistics since the twenty-first session of the Commission, when the subject of housing and human settlements statistics had last been discussed. The work included an expert group meeting on human settlements statistics in 1987, convened jointly by the Statistical Office and Habitat; the publication, in 1985, of the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics, 1983, prepared by the Statistical Office, and, in 1986, of the technical report on Concepts and Methods for Integrating Social and Economic Statistics on Health, Education and Housing (in particular chap. VII), also prepared by the Statistical Office; and the establishment by Habitat of a microcomputer database - Human Settlements Statistical Data Base (HSDB.stat) - in 1990. The statistical pocket book entitled Basic Human Settlements Statistics, prepared by Habitat, was expected to be published in March 1991.

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3. The Commission noted that the Commission on Human Settlements, in its resolution 12/6, had expressed deep concern about the deletion of the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics from the work programme of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat and had invited the Statistical Commission at its twenty-sixth session to examine ways and means of resuming the work on the Compendium within the programme of work for the biennium 1990-1991. In response to the concern expressed by the Commission on Human Settlements, the Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, at its thirteenth session, had added the question of human settlements statistics to the agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission. The Commission was pleased to learn that the Statistical Office, resources permitting, intended to resume work on the publication of human settlements statistics, including the Compendium on Human Settlements Statistics, in co-operation with Habitat, taking advantage of the 1990 round of population and housing censuses, and proposed to include the preparation of a human settlements statistics database and related tabular outputs in its programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993.

4. The Commission supported the initiative of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat to promote the development of housing and human settlements statistics and noted with satisfaction the excellent co-operation that existed between the Statistical Office and Habitat in the field of human settlements statistics.

Action taken by the Commission

5. The Commission:

Endorsed the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993 of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in the development of housing and human settlements statistics, including work on methodology and data collection and compilation, to be carried out in close co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).